

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) An interchangeable footwear system comprising a shoe assembly including

- (a) a base shoe
- (b) interchangeable covers

in which any one of a plurality of said covers are adapted to allow fitting to said base shoe forming an assembly so as to change the appearance and use environment of said shoe assembly.

2. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 1 wherein said base shoe comprises a sole portion and an upper portion.

3. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 2 wherein said sole portion is provided with an upwardly extending perimeter rim portion.

4. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 4 wherein said upwardly extending perimeter rim portion is provided with a first mating element.

5. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 4 wherein said interchangeable covers are provided with a second mating element along the lower perimeter of said covers,

6. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 5 wherein said first mating element is female.
7. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 6 wherein said first mating element is male.
8. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 7 wherein said second mating element is male.
9. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 8 wherein said second mating element is female.
10. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 9 wherein said first and second mating elements are substantially V-shaped in section.
11. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 10 wherein said V-shaped sections of said mating elements are provided with matching protrusions and recesses so as to provide a snap-fit when said cover is assembled to said base shoe.
12. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 11 wherein said base shoes are provided in a range of shapes, and sizes.

13. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 12 wherein said covers are provided in a matching range of shapes and sizes adapted to fit said base shoes.

14. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of claim 13 wherein said covers are provided in a range of colours and patterns.

15. (currently amended) The interchangeable footwear system of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein said base shoe and said covers are made from any of a selection of materials, said selection including leather, canvas, rubber, plastic and other synthetic materials.

16. (currently amended) The interchangeable footwear system of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein a one of said covers includes an indicia-receiving portion.

17. (original) The interchangeable footwear system of Claim 16 wherein said indicia-receiving portion is adapted to display promotional indicia.

18. (currently amended) A method of altering the appearance of a shoe, said method comprising utilising the interchangeable footwear system of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.